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### From the General Manager

September has been a long, hot and dry month. This is not unusual and was to be expected. Water remains our most critical resource and even with the new water availability from Waterberg and Newburg it remains a resource that has to be well managed and conserved.

After a number of months of deliberation the Trustees have taken a decision that excessive use of water has to be brought under control and the final resort to accomplish this is to charge owners for repeated excessive use.

You will have received a letter sent to all owners explaining the logic and explanation of this charge, which has become effective from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. We believe this is not only fair but absolutely necessary to increase awareness of water scarcity and to reduce consumption.

The purpose of this excessive use charge is to drive behavior.

We appeal to all owners, whether or not you use excessive volumes of water, to conserve water in every way possible. We thank you for your co-operation and we look forward to positive results.



## Golf Course Report

During the last two weeks of September, average daily temperatures reached the upper thirties every day, with a high of 40 degrees. There is no way our irrigation system and water availability could cope with this extreme heat and the fairways have dried out and turned completely brown.

Without raising hopes, the weather pattern so far seems to favour a good rain season. The August winds have blown since the beginning of last month and the temperatures have been above average.

The treatment of Poa Annuua winter grass has continued according to plan and the greens have now been sprayed four times with Cultar. The Poa is definitely taking strain from the chemical treatment as well as the summer heat. The greens have also been fertilized regularly but as yet have shown no sign of real growth. The mower height has not yet been increased as planned because mowing still results in almost no grass clippings. As soon as the leaf growth kicks in the mower height will be raised. This is all part of the Poa treatment plan to grow the bent grass

stronger and suffocate the invading species.

The green speed remains faster than intended and will slow down as soon as the bent grass reacts to the fertilizer program.

Hollow tining will begin at 12h00 on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> October and the course will be reopened on Friday, 19<sup>th</sup> October.



## Golf Operations

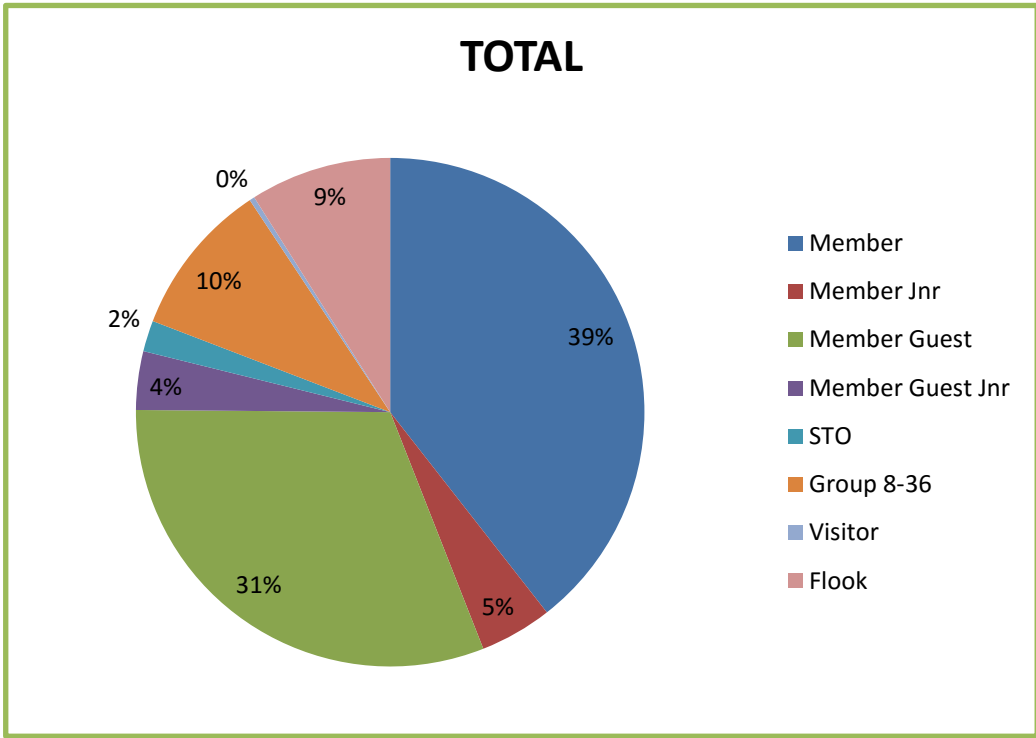
953 golf rounds were played in September, which exceeded forecast by 20%. This is most encouraging and hopefully an indication of what we can expect for the rest of the year.

75% of these rounds were played by Members and Member Guests and another 10% by groups of golfers touring in Limpopo.

Total golf revenues and revenue per round are tracking well against forecast.

Customer feedback on service levels remains satisfactory. If there is anything further that you would like us to consider in terms of customer service offering, please let us know and we will certainly take a look at it.





### Fauna and Flora

The sun peeks over the horizon a little bit earlier and the sunset skies are seen later and later each day. With the arrival of spring the colours of the bush have already started to change. New leaves are sprouting and some of the trees are in full flower already.

During the month we have seen the arrival of some of the migratory birds such as the *Greater Striped Swallow*, *Woodland Kingfisher* and the *Diederik Cuckoo*.

The *Masked Weavers* have started with the building of their colony of nests in the *Paper Bark Thorn Acacias* at the entrance of the clubhouse.

The male builds a nest for a female. If the female does not like the nest, he will tear it down and start over.

If she does like the nest, she will line it with grass and feathers, and start raising a family. The male will then try to build a nest for another female. It is quite a sight to see.



## Water Status

We have experienced both mechanical and electrical failures on two of our most critical boreholes and this has resulted in low availability of domestic water during the last weekend of the month.

The pump on borehole number 9 failed and has been sent in for repair and the electric cable on borehole number 12 burned and had to be replaced. Borehole 12 has been restored and is successfully back in service.

The water table is at its lowest this time of the year and all boreholes have to be rested regularly to avoid them running dry.



## Property Marketing

There are seven commercial stands on the property, of which two are privately owned. One of these is being developed and ground work has already begun.

The owner is building 4 x four-bedroom lodges which will provide a further sixteen rooms on the property for rental. The site location is ideal for this development and will add significant value to Elements.

Another lodge is being built on site 142 and site establishment has already been completed. We look forward to more and more building activity taking place over the next several months.



## General

We are in negotiation with the Sports Department at the Bela Bela High School to establish a Golf Development Academy in partnership with the school. This is still very much in development phase but if all progresses as well as we can expect, we are hopeful that we will be in a position to offer golf coaching lessons over the December holidays. We'll keep you posted on progress.

A new wine menu has been introduced with a broader range than in the past. This new selection certainly caters for all tastes and also covers a wide price range. White wine prices range from only R100.00 to R260.00 per bottle and red wine from R120.00 to R590.00 for the exclusive Boschendal Black Angus. We look forward to presenting you with this new selection on your next visit.



## Important Dates

15-18 October 2018 Course Closed for Spring Hollow Tining

01 November 2018 SAGES Cansa Day

27 & 28 April 2019 Club Championships 2019

September 2017



September 2018

